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head of Ombabika Bay, Lake Nipigon; south shore of North Ombabika Peninsula; Orient Bay, south end of Lake Nipigon; *Thuja-Alnus* thicket, shore of lake at Jellicoe.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

(To be continued)

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## A Vermont Fern Garden

HAROLD GODDARD RUGG

When I first became interested in ferns, my interest was largely in the herbarium specimens, but soon I began to desire to see the growing plant and to be able to study its growth. In the years of my collecting I have seen growing in their natural habitat practically all of the ferns credited to Vermont, and at some time or other I have had plants of them growing in my fernery at Proctorsville, Vermont. In some cases, however, the rarer ferns have survived but a year or two.

An ideal location for a fernery is a northern exposure, possibly the north side of a house. My fernery in such a location has plenty of shade, the ground retains its moisture longer than in other locations and the soil is free from tree roots. The soil is ordinary loam, but to this I add leaf mould.

I have succeeded with all the ordinary ferns, including some which like *Woodwardia virginica* L. (Sm.) need rather moist conditions. My *Woodwardia* however has never produced fertile fronds. *Woodwardia areolata* (L.) Moore, not a native of Vermont, plants of which may be purchased from two of our dealers, does well and has fruited nearly every year.

One of the ferns I was most anxious to have growing in my fernery was *Lygodium palmatum* (Bernh.) Sw. I sent for plants of this several times to two nursery-

men, but to no avail, for the fern never lived beyond the first season. Finally I was able to visit a station for this fern and took up a root with a large amount of soil and had no difficulty in making the plant live. This fern has grown and fruited well in my fernery and is one of my most attractive and treasured plants. Later I received from a dealer another plant taken up with a large amount of soil and this plant too has done well. Both plants are in a rather dry part of my fern border.

As for the *Botrychiums* I have tried them all from *Botrychium simplex* E. Hitchcock to *B. obliquum* Muhl. but the only one that has really flourished is *B. virginianum* (L.) Sw. *B. obliquum* has sometimes survived, but *B. simplex* and *B. ramosum* (Roth) Aschers. and *B. lanceolatum* (Gmel.) Angstroem, var. *angustisegmentum* Pease & Moore have always died, even though I have taken up a large amount of soil with the roots. I even sent to England for a root of *B. lunaria* (L.) Sw., as that is represented in the Vermont flora by a single specimen collected at Lake Willoughby, but that too went the way of the others.<sup>1</sup> Possibly some reader of this article can tell me how to grow successfully the members of this interesting family.

For several years I have had five growing plants of *Camptosorus rhizophyllus* (L.) Link. This is in a slightly raised bed with other ferns, but I have placed small pieces of marble throughout the soil.

*Asplenium viride* Huds. has done well for two or three years and then died as has *Woodsia glabella* R. Br. and *Woodsia alpina* (Bolton) S. F. Gray and *Asplenium Ruta-muraria* L. *Woodsia ilvensis* (L.) R. Br., *Woodsia obtusa* (Spreng.) Torr., and some of the western *Woodsias* and *Polypodium vulgare* L. do well if rocks

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<sup>1</sup>Since the above was written, a small colony of *B. lunaria* has been found near St. Johnsbury, Vt.

are placed near the roots or if a small rockery can be constructed.

Of the Vermont rock ferns I have had the greatest difficulty with *Pellaea atropurpurea* (L.) Link. Pot-grown plants thrive the first season but never appear the second spring. *Asplenium septentrionale* (L.) Hoffm. did well for a season but died the second year after a struggle for existence.

Others with good facilities for an elaborate rockery will doubtless succeed with many of these rock ferns which have troubled me so much.

The many varieties of the Lady fern which may be purchased in England and from Dreer in this country are a welcome addition to the fernery and need no special treatment.

Two very interesting and attractive ferns with which I have been successful are *Lomaria spicant* and *Asplenium goringianum pictum* from Japan.

Four of the choicest and most treasured ferns I have come from plants originally in the garden of the late Mr. George Davenport. These were given by Mr. Davenport to Mrs. Emily Hitchcock Terry and very kindly passed on to me, years later, by Mrs. Terry. These are *Dicksonia punctilobula cristata* (Maxon) Clute, *Aspidium thelypteris Pufferae* (A. A. Eaton) Robinson, *Aspidium spinulosum*, var. *concordianum* (Davenport) Eastman and *Aspidium pittsfordense* (Slosson) Eastman. I might say that the ordinary *Dicksonia* does well in a sunny exposure or the south side of the house and is an attractive cover for a stone underpinning. One of the hardest and most easily grown of our native ferns is *Aspidium Filix-mas* (L.) Sw. and an interesting fern for one's fernery is *Scolopendrium vulgare* Sm., but in Vermont this sometimes suffers from our severe winters.

HANOVER, N. H.